

# SOURCES OF LEAD & SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE

## WHAT CAUSES LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN?

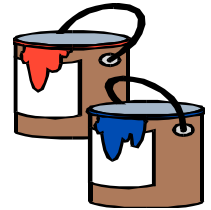
- ◆ The normal hand to mouth contact of a young child makes them most susceptible to lead exposure.
- ◆ The most common causes of elevated blood lead levels is the ingestion or inhalation of:
  - **LEAD - BASED PAINT**
  - **LEAD - BASED DUST FROM DETERIORATED LEAD PAINT**
  - **LEAD CONTAMINATED SOIL/DIRT**

## WHAT ARE SOME OTHER SOURCES OF LEAD?

- ◆ **FISHING SINKERS**
- ◆ **BULLETS**
- ◆ **BRASS KEYS**
- ◆ **BRASS WATER FAUCETS**
- ◆ **LEADED SOLDER**
- ◆ **LEAD CRYSTAL**
- ◆ **MATCH TIPS**
- ◆ **CIGARETTE ASHES**

## HOW MUCH LEAD IS IN YOUR PAINT?

- ◆ Paint contained up to 50% lead through the 1940's.
- ◆ From 1940 on, the percent of lead decreased.
- ◆ In 1978 the Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the manufacture of residential paint containing more than 0.06% lead by weight on interior and exterior paint, toys and furniture.



## WHAT WILL PUT A CHILD IN THE HIGH RISK GROUP FOR ELEVATED LEAD?

- ◆ **LIVING IN A PRE-1960 HOME**

The potential for exposure is greatest for children who spend time in older homes. Even well maintained homes will have lead dust on surfaces painted with lead paint. (See related document – Age of Homes in Monroe County).



## **SYMPTOMS**

- ◆ At lower lead levels symptoms are not usually apparent. **The only way to tell if children have an elevated blood level is by having them tested.**
- ◆ The longer children have lead in their blood, and the higher the level, the more serious their problems may be.

### **Lead Poisoning can cause:**

- A lower IQ
- Kidney damage
- Hearing loss
- Growth problems
- Anemia
- Behavior problems